

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-08

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 SWF-02 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 SP-03 SAM-01 SR-02 ORM-03 IGA-02 DRC-01 SCI-06

/160 W

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R 261300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5152

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3766

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, EAGR, NU

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI

SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE TORRENTIAL RAINS ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANE FIFI TO NICARAGUA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WAS LIGHT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF COTTON, W K THAT ON BALANCE THE RAINS MAY HAVE DONE MORE GOOD THAN HARM. THE COMMUNICATIONS WERE MORE HARSHLY AFFECTED, MANY BRIDGES WERE WASHED OUT OR DAMAGED AND THE RAILROAD BETWEEN MANAGUA AND THE PRINCIPAL PORT OF CORINTO WILL BE OUT OF SERVICE FOR AT LEAST A MONTH. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS ASKED ITS FIELD OFFICES FOR REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE TO CROPS BY THE WINDS AND RAINS OF HURRICANE FIFI AND A COMPLETED SURVEY IS EXPECTED BY  
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EARLY OCTOBER. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT ABOUT

20 PERCENT OF THE COTTON CROP WAS FLOODED BUT THE PLANTS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED AND MOST WILL SURVIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, RAIN WAS NEEDED AND THE DAMAGE DONE BY DROUGHT EARLIER IN THE GROWING SEASON WAS MUCH MORE SEVERE THAN THAT CAUSED BY THE HURRICANE.

2. AN ESTIMATE OF THE BANCO NACIONAL DE NICARAGUA, THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF CREDIT TO THE RURAL SECTOR, IS THAT ONLY ABOUT 1 PERCENT OF GRAIN PRODUCTION (RICE, BEANS, CORN, AND SORGHUM) IT HAS FINANCED WAS LOST. OTHER SOURCES SAY THAT THE MOISTURE WILL IMPROVE PASTURAGE AND COFFEE PRODUCTION. ALL SOURCES BELIEVE THAT, ON BALANCE, AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS WERE IMPROVED RATHER THAN HARMED BY THE RAINS.

3. SWOLLEN RIVERS DAMAGED BRIDGES AND SOME VILLAGES IN NORTH NICARAGUA ARE STILL ISOLATED BUT RELIEF EFFORTS APPEAR WELL IN HAND. THE MOST SERIOUS DAMAGE WAS TO THE RAILROAD WHICH WAS WASHED OUT IN THE CORINTO AREA AND REPAIRS ARE ESTIMATED TO TAKE AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE SERVICE BETWEEN MANAGUA AND CORINTO ARE RESTORED.

4. ACCOUNTS OF THE HONDURAN DISASTER DOMINATE THE LOCAL MEDIA AND A NUMBER OF RELIEF EFFORTS TO HELP ARE UNDERWAY. VIVID MEMORIES OF THEIR OWN SUFFERING IN THE MANAGUA EARTHQUAKE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE THEY RECEIVED AT THAT TIME MAKE THE NICARAGUANS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR STRICKEN NEIGHBORS.  
SHELTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** HURRICANE FIFI SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT DAMAGE CAUSED  
**TAGS:** OGEN, EAGR, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005